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To the Honourable the Commons of *Great-Britain*, in *Parliament* Aſſembled,

The Humble

PETITION

OF

Abraham, Elton, Benjamin Coole, and *Edward Loyd*, Merchants in *Briſtol*; *John Hitchcock, John Shorey*, and *James Knight*, Merchants in *London*; in Behalf of themſelves, and all the ſeveral Manufacturers in Copper Oar, *Lapis Caliminaris*, Wrought Braſs, Battrey, *&c.* within the Kingdom of *Great-Britain*,

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT by the Art and Induſtry of your Petitioners, and thoſe concern'd with them in the ſeveral Manufactures of Copper and Braſs aforeſaid; and at their very great Loſs, Hazard, and Expence, your Petitioners have brought the ſaid Manufactures to a great Perfection; particularly that the ſaid Goods are not only made here, but are all made of Copper Oar, and *Lapis Calaminaris*, found and dug out of the Earth within this Kingdom; ſo that whereas formerly, and until a very few Years paſt, when the ſaid Manufacturers were compleated here, all our Wrought Braſs Battrey, *&c.* was brought in from *Holland*, now the ſame is wrought by our own People, to the great Encouragement of Trade, and to the Employing many Thouſand Families of our Poor.

But by reaſon of Encouragement given by former Laws to Foreign Goods, when none were made of our own, your Petitioners lye under great Diſadvantages and Inequalities. Particularly,

I. In allowing the Duties of Wrought Braſs, Battrey, *&c.* Imported from *Holland*, to be drawn back upon the Exportation to our own Plantations, whereby the ſaid *Dutch* Goods come at leaſt 26 *s. per* Hundred to Market cheaper than your Petitioners, even in the Markets within Her Majeſties own Dominions.

II. In allowing Black Battrey likewiſe Imported from *Holland*, to be entred at the *Cuſtom-Houſe* as *Metal-prepared* only, and there to pay leſs Duty than other Battrey 11 *s. per* Hundred; whereas that Ancient Term of *Metal-prepared* was only us'd to ſignifie Ingots, or Lumps of Unwrought Braſs, and theſe Black Wares are really Battrey, or Kettles compleatly finiſhed, and fit for Uſe. And,

III. In allowing a certain Sort of Wrought Braſs, called *Black Lattin*, equal in all Reſpects to the Battery aforeſaid, and often uſed as ſuch, to pay upon Importation 9 *s.* 6 *d. per* Hundred only, by which Means the Importer is Enabled to Underſel the Manufacture of Battery in Proportion to the Difference of the ſaid Duty.

All which tends to the great Diſcouragement, Loſs, and Inevitable Ruin of the ſaid Manufacturers in this Kingdom, which have at ſo great an Expence and Loſs been undertaken, and which are ſo Beneficial to our Trade in general, and the Poor in particular.

Wherefore your Petitioners moſt humbly pray this Honourable Houſe to take the ſame into their Conſideration, and to help and relieve your Petitioners as to your HONOURS in your great Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet.

And Your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

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OF

Abraham Elton, *Benjamin Coole*,
Edward Loyd, *John Hitchcock*,
John Shorey, and *James Knight*,
Merchants.